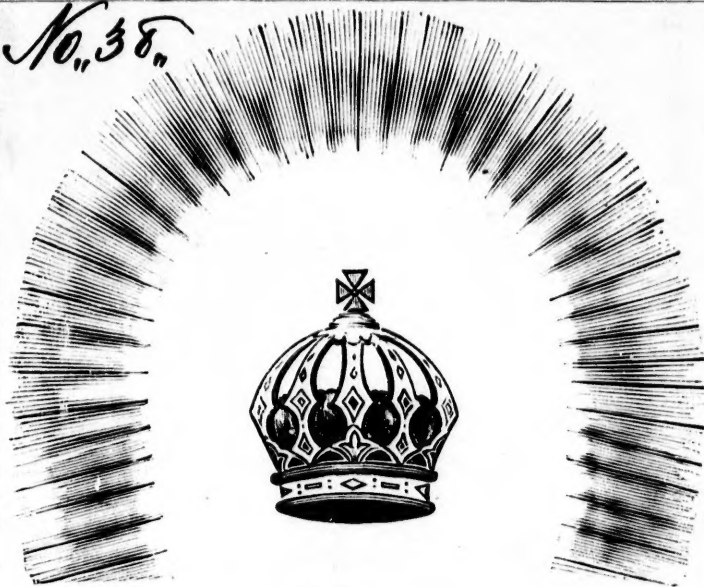


Colonel the Hon^{ble} C. E. Panet 9B
for the Militia Museum, Ottawa

from the Author.

No. 38.



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THE ROYAL
Canadian Volunteers
1794-1802

AN HISTORICAL SKETCH.



By J. L. HUBERT NEILSON, M.D., R.C.A.,
Deputy Surgeon-General.

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No. 29
A.E.

THE ROYAL CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS.

1794-1802.

It is commonly believed that with the birth of "A" and "B" Batteries Royal Canadian Artillery in October, 1871, the Regular force of Canada originated. Such is not the case, however, and many will doubtless for the first time learn that as far back as 1794, a corps, known as the Regiment of Royal Canadian Volunteers, was recruited and officered by Canadians in the old provinces of Upper and Lower Canada—chiefly in the latter—and that it existed eight years.

The first Battalion (De Longueuil's) was largely officered by French Canadian gentlemen—most of them were members of the best known, wealthy and respected families of old French Canada. The privates were presumably of the same nationality as their officers. The 2nd Battalion appears to have been chiefly composed of men of British origin. The names of most of its officers recall those of the old Glengarry settlement. These strongly marked national characteristics became partly effaced as years wore on, for promotions were made regimentally, and officers were thus frequently transferred from one Battalion to the other.

The 1st Battalion was at first quartered at Quebec. During the summer of 1797, it was under canvas on the heights of Point Levi.

The 2nd Battalion (Macdonell's) spent the two first years of its existence at Montreal, while detachments or perhaps the whole Battalion was stationed for periods at Sorel, St. Johns and Laprairie. In the spring of 1798 the headquarters of Macdonell's Battalion were transferred to Fort George, on the Niagara River, with detachments at Fort Erie and Amherstburgh. Fort George was a most unhealthy station; out of a garrison of three hundred, two hundred and fifty were at one time prostrated with intermittent fever.

In those days a battalion was composed of ten companies of from thirty to forty files, and in war time fifty files; a Grenadier company was always placed at the right of the line, and the Light Infantry Company or Skirmishers on the left. The other companies were numbered from one to eight. The R.C.V. Battalions, although each provided with a Grenadier and a Light Company, seem to have had but six other companies, the average strength of which was seventy men, giving a total strength, of rank and file, of about six hundred.

The Abbé Bois, in his biographical sketch of Captain Dambourgès*, page 57, says that when the Regiment was disbanded, in 1802, it had still a strength of 600 men. We presume he refers to the 1st Battalion only. The same authority also states that the motto of the Regiment emblazoned on its colors was "Try us." It was, however, never given the opportunity of being *tried* under fire. Its uniform was scarlet, of the contemporary infantry cut, being "Royal," its facings were doubtless blue; the men wore grey cloth breeches; the officers, white, with long black gaiters buttoned to above the knee. The head dress was a three-cornered hat with black cockade—except the Grenadier Company, which wore the usual tall, conical, highly decorated grenadier cap. The officers wore a cocked hat crosswise, with the tassels over the shoulders. The Officers' swords were straight, 38 inches long, the blade ornamented with blue and gold tracings, the hilt was of ivory and gilt metal; it was supported by a broad buff belt slung over the right shoulder; a crimson silk sash was worn around the waist and knotted to the left; the gorgeret was of gilt metal, it bore the monogram G.R. and royal arms, which also decorated an oval breast-plate on the sword sling. The men were armed with the old flint lock and bayonet.

It seems probable that the Regiment was raised on the suggestion of the Duke of Kent, father of our gracious Sovereign, who had served in Canada as Colonel of the 7th Royal Fusiliers from 1791 to January, 1794. He left Canada for the West Indies, spent the year 1794 actively employed, and with great personal distinction, during Sir Charles Grey's brilliant expedition against Martinique and Guadaloupe. In the following summer he came to Halifax—as commander of the Troops in Nova Scotia—where he remained until 1800. His correspondence with the many friends he had made in Canada proves the deep and sustained interest he felt in the Royal Canadian Volunteers. Several of its officers had been his personal friends while in Quebec, and were undoubtedly his nominees for their commissions in the R.C.V., notably Major Louis de Salaberry, and his two sons, the Duchesnays, the De Lanaudières, Dambourgès, Hale,† etc. In the volume compiled by Dr. Anderson, which contains the Royal Duke's numerous private letters to the De Salaberry family

*Le colonel Dambourgès, Etude historique canadienne—8vo, pages 58, Québec, 1866.

† See The Life of H.R.H. Edward Duke of Kent—illustrated by his correspondence with the De Salaberry family, etc., by Dr. W. J. Anderson, 8vo, Ottawa and Toronto, 1870.

covering a period of about twenty-eight years, the nobleness of his character, his gentleness and manly generosity are admirably portrayed. These letters give an extremely interesting insight into his private life, his social and family relations with the other members of the royal family ; they are at the same time of considerable importance to the historical and military student.

In 1799 strong pressure was brought to bear on the officers of the R.C.V. by the Home and Colonial Military authorities to cause them to consent to be placed on the same footing as other Fencible Corps. As Commander in Chief in North America, the Duke wrote to Major Louis DeSalaberry under date Halifax, N.S., Oct. 22, 1799:—

"His Majesty has thought proper to make it known that he "would be pleased if all the Provincial regiments would offer to "serve in ALL the American Colonies, in place of being confined to "the one whose name they bear. In consequence of accepting "this offer, they would be placed on the establishment as the Fencibles are in England and as is the Newfoundland Regiment,— "that is to say, the officers would rank through all North America "the same as they do at present in their respective provinces, and "the Adjutants and Quartermasters would be sure of half pay in "case of reduction, and the regiments would be commanded by officers taken from the line who would be proprietors. I believe "it is the intention of forming a Brigade of Canadians after the "manner of the 60th, of which the Commander in Chief of the "Troops in North America would be Colonel, as the Duke of York "is of the 60th.

"The proposition has already been made to the Nova Scotian "and New Brunswick Regiments, and both have expressed in the "most loyal manner their willingness to serve wherever His Majesty "may think proper."

So far we have found nothing to prove that the proposed change met with the approval of the R.C.V. or otherwise ; but whether it was favorably viewed or not, the corps was doomed to extinction.

Mr. Douglas Brymner, Dominion archivist, fixes this event as occurring during the months of August and September of 1802. At that time the second Battalion had several detached companies on duty in both the Canadas. Those in Upper Canada were : Kingston, 1 Company ; Fort George, 3 Companies ; Fort Erie, a detachment of 18, rank and file ; Chippewa, a detachment of 18, rank and file ; York, 2 Companies. Captain Hector MacLean was in command at Kingston, when the arms and accoutrement were handed

in to store on the 22nd of August, 1802. Captain Neil MacLean performed similar duties at York on the 1st of September. All these companies belonged to the 2nd Battalion. The 1st Battalion was then also morcelled in the various garrison towns of Lower Canada; it was disbanded during September, 1802. Three companies were then in Quebec under Captains de la Bruère-Piedmont, Sabrevois de Bleury, and Vassal de Monviel—the other five companies received their "*coup de grâce*" in Three Rivers, Sorel, Montreal and St. Johns.

An imperfect list of the officers of the R.C.V. is to be found in Neilson's Quebec Almanac for 1796.* The same publication for 1797 contains a fairly complete list; it is as follows:—

ROYAL CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS.

1ST BATTALION.

Lieutenant Colonel.—Joseph de Longueuil.

Major.—Louis de Salaberry.

Captains.—(8) François Dambourgès, DesRivières Beaubien, François de la Bruère-Piedmont, Louvigny de Montigny, Pierre Marcoux, C. Sabrevois de Bleury, François Vassal de Monviel, Chevalier J. B. D'Estimauville.

Lieutenants.—(10) David Dupré, Pierre Duchouquet, Ant. Juchereau Duchesnay, Joseph de Beaujeu, Charles G. de Lanaudière, Hypolite de Hertel, Pierre Bazin, Henry Hay, Joseph Bouchette, Benjamin Jobert.

Ensigns.—(10) J. B. Juchereau Duchesnay, Antoine Petrimoulx, Louis de Montizambert, Honoré Baillie, Antoine de Lanaudière, Etienne de LeMorandière, Richard Hay, François Boucher, Robert Anderson, Francis Duval.

Chaplain.—Rev'd. Salter Mountain.

Quarter Master.—Louis Fromenteau.

Adjutant.—Robert Anderson.

Surgeon.—James Anderson.

Surgeon's Mate.—J. B. L. Menard.

*These important little volumes were issued annually from 1780 to 1842. They contain civil, military, militia, ecclesiastical and professional lists as well as historical sketches, new ordinances and a mass of miscellaneous local information of the highest interest. They are unfortunately very rare.

2ND BATTALION R.C.V.

Lieutenant Colonel.—John McDonell.

Major.—Hazelton Spencer.

Captains.—(7) Peter Drummond, Hector MacLean, Hugh MacDonell, Neil MacLean, Miles MacDonell, Richard Wilkinson, Alexander McMillan.

Lieutenants.—(10) Richard Fargueson, William Fraser, William Crawford, Chichester McDonell, Thomas Frazer, Ronald MacDonell, William Johnson, Angus McDonell, — Taschereau, Pierre Ignace Mailhot.

Ensigns.—(7) Pierre de Boucherville, William Deace, Peter Grant, George Ermatinger, Charles Launière, Joseph Boardwine, Robert Woolsey.

Chaplain.— — Duval.

Adjutant.—John Crampton.

Quarter Master.—Andrew Cameron.

Surgeon.—James Davidson.

Surgeon's Mate.—Cyrus Anderson.

Paymasters do not appear on the list until 1798, when Louis Genevay is detailed to the 1st Battalion and John Taylor to the 2nd Battalion. In December, 1798, Lieutenant Ferguson of the 2nd Battalion is promoted to his Captaincy in the 1st Battalion, vice Dambourgès deceased. Considerable changes are noted this year in the list of ensigns. Through the influence of the Duke of Kent, J. B. Juchereau Duchesnay is transferred to an ensigncy in the 5th Battalion of the 60th Rifles, while the names of Pierre Petrimoult and Etienne de la Morandière disappear from the list of the 1st Battalion, the first on promotion to a lieutenantcy in the 2nd Battalion. They are replaced by Denis Alexander, Maurice Roc de Salaberry, second son of Major Louis de Salaberry, and J. B. Philippe d'Estimauville. James Walker is now Surgeon, vice James Davidson; and Henry Loedel, Surgeon's Mate, vice J. B. L. Ménard deceased. This for the 1st Battalion.

In the 2nd Battalion, Chaussegros de Levy figures on the list of Captains as junior of the rank. Pierre Pétrimoult is promoted to a lieutenantcy from an ensigncy in the 1st Battalion. Stephen McKay, Ferdinand Dame and Joseph Chinique (Chinic?) receive their first commissions as ensigns.

If we examine the list of the R. C. V. officers three years later,

in 1801, we shall find no changes in the field ranks and few changes among the other ranks. The name of Captain Des Rivières Beaubien is no more to be found; it is replaced by that of W. J. Banbury as junior captain,—he had probably been brought into the Regiment from some other Regular or Fencible corps. Antoine Juchereau has been appointed lieutenant, and François Louis de Salaberry, third son of Major Louis de Salaberry, is ensign. No further changes are made until both Battalions are finally disbanded in August and September, 1802. We find then that two officers are transferred to the civil list—Major Louis de Salaberry as district superintendent of Indians, and Paymaster Louis Genevay as deputy to the Post Master General at Quebec. The two young de Salaberrys, as we shall see, received appointments in the 7th Royal Fusiliers, and Capt. Vassal de Monviel is made Adjut. Gen. of Militia. Judging from the following extract of a letter of the then Prime Minister, the Duke of Portland, to Sir Robert Shore Milnes, Lieutenant Governor, the first Canadian Regulars could not have been favorably reported on to the Home authorities; he writes: "I cannot help expressing to you my surprise, that the establishment of the Canadian Battalion in Lower Canada, the principal object of which was to draw the Canadian gentlemen from their indolent and inactive habits, and attach them to the King's service, should have met with no greater success."

Whatever may have been the shortcomings of this "Canadian Battalion", it had, certainly, no lack of loyalty on the 12th June, 1801. It placed in the hands of the Governor-General a Bill of exchange for five hundred pounds sterling, "as a voluntary contribution on the part of the Officers and Privates of the 1st Battalion R. C. V. towards carrying on the present war". The Governor-General in his letter of thanks said that he "had no doubt this very handsome testimony of the zeal and loyalty of the corps will be received by His Majesty with peculiar satisfaction."

Several of the officers of the R.C.V. had either rendered distinguished services previous to their appointments, or rose to distinction after leaving the Corps. We have culled from authentic sources some information concerning the lives of the officers of the old R.C.V. whose deeds are worthy of being recorded.

DE LONGUEUIL—Colonel, Joseph Dominique Emanuel Lemoyne, Seigneur de Soulages, was born in 1738. In 1755 he received his first commission from Louis XV, served his King faithfully, and was present at all the principal battles between the English and French in America from that date to 1760. Three years later

he elected to remain in Canada, and swore allegiance to King George. He fought on the British side during the War of Independence, was appointed Legislative Councillor in the first Canadian Parliament; Colonel of the 1st Battalion R.C.V. He died in Montreal in 1807. One of his descendants, Mr. M. de Beaujeu, of Montreal, published an interesting sketch of his life in 1892. The biographer of Dambourgès asserts that the R.C.V. Regiment was frequently short of supplies, and that Colonel de Longueuil actually sustained it for a considerable time out of his private means.

MAJOR LOUIS DE SALABERRY was the son of Michel de Salaberry, the first of the name who settled in Canada. His mother was of the Juchereau Duchesnay family. He was born in 1752. The father became a British subject after the Conquest, but sent his son to France to be educated. At the outbreak of the War of the Rebellion in 1775 he had returned, and we find him an officer of Militia at Fort St. John, where he was severely wounded by the explosion of a shell. He was subsequently twice wounded at different times during this war. Like most of his descendants, his physique was magnificent and his strength herculean. At the close of the War of Independence he was granted a pension. He married a Miss Hertel de Rouville. Dr. Anderson says of him in his *Life of the Duke of Kent*:—"He was living happy and respected in the bosom of his family when the Prince arrived in Canada. A warm attachment sprung up between them. The prince was a constant, almost a daily, visitor, showing a strong attachment for and delighting in the society of the children, of whom Mr. de Salaberry had several boys and girls."

The Prince obtained a commission in the 60th Rifles for his son Charles, later the hero of Chateauguay,—then only fifteen years of age. He doubtless nominated the father for his majority in the R.C.V. When the Regiment was disbanded in 1802, Major de Salaberry's previous pension was continued to him, and he was appointed one of the superintendents for the Indians. In 1810 he was elevated to the Legislative Council. During the war of 1812 the old veteran commanded a Regiment of Militia on the frontier. He died in 1826. His four sons received commissions in the British service: Charles in the 60th Rifles, Maurice Roc and François Louis in the 7th Royal Fusiliers; they both died in India in 1808 and 1809, and the youngest, Edward, godson of the Duke of Kent, graduated from Woolwich into the Royal Engineers; he was soon sent to the Peninsular War, there he lost his life in a most heroic manner, when attempting to blow up one of the gates of Badajoz the 6th of April, 1812.

CAPTAIN DAMBOURGÈS was born in the south of France in 1741. He came to Canada shortly after the Conquest, and soon became a successful merchant at St. Thomas in Lower Canada. When Quebec was besieged by the Americans under Montgomery in November, 1775, Dambourgès was one of the 1500 regulars, sailors and militia men who successfully held this the only foot-hold which remained to Britain in Canada. Most contemporary writers and Canadian historians mention his heroic conduct on the memorable night of December 31st, when the besiegers under Arnold penetrated on the east side of the city to Sault au Matelot street. Dambourgès was one of the defenders of the barricade which blocked this approach to the Lower Town. A party of Americans occupied a stone building overlooking this barricade, and opened a galling fire on the defenders. Dambourgès seized a ladder, and, followed by three or four Canadians, climbed, unobserved by the enemy, to a gable window; thus taken by surprise from the rear, and believing that Dambourgès had many followers, the Americans threw down their arms, and gave themselves up prisoners to these few men. He behaved in an equally conspicuous manner until the end of the siege. For his gallantry, Sir Guy Carleton gave him a lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion of the 84th Regiment. With this corps he served until the end of the War of Independence in 1783. He was placed on half pay when this Battalion was disbanded the year following. Dambourgès then returned to his commercial pursuits, and became Colonel of a Militia Battalion. In 1791 he was elected to the 1st Parliament of Lower Canada. When the Royal Canadian Volunteers were raised, Lord Dorchester, remembering his past splendid services, offered Dambourgès the captaincy of the Grenadier Company. Although fifty-three years of age, this veteran was still gifted with a magnificent physique and extraordinary energy. He soon enlisted one hundred and fifty recruits chiefly from St. Thomas and neighboring parishes. Prince Edward honored him with his intimate friendship,—he was one of his favorites; he used to call him "le capitaine balafre," on account of a deep bayonet wound in the face which he had received during the siege of Quebec. No opportunities of gaining further distinction in the field were offered to him in his new corps. In October, 1798, while stationed in Montreal, he was attacked with pleurisy; he died from its after-effects in the December following. He was given a very imposing military funeral. His body still reposes in a vault under the parish church of Montreal. He deserved well of his king and country, and was an honor to his race. His deeds are to be found in a biographical sketch by

the Abbé Bois, published in 1866, now long out of print, but his memory should be perpetuated by a suitable monument or tablet. The Historical Society of Montreal should consider this suggestion, for no loyal Canadian better deserved such a tribute to his memory. He left two daughters only, so that the name has now become extinct in Canada.

CAPTAINS DESRIVIÈRES-BEAUBIEN, De la Bruère-Piedmont, C. Sabrevois de Bleury. Louvigny de Montigny bore excellent family names, but I have failed to find anything worth noting after their leaving the R.C.V.

CAPTAIN FRANÇOIS VASSAL DE MONVIEL was born in 1758; he was a godson of the celebrated Bougainville; he served with distinction under Burgoyne and St. Leger during the War of Independence. Bibaud asserts that when the R.C.V. was disbanded, Vassal served in some military capacity under the Duke of York in Holland; a few years after he reappeared in Canada, but in rather straightened circumstances, for he navigated for some time a small coast trading vessel as a means of subsistence. Sir James Craig soon relieved him of further embarrassments by appointing him Deputy Adjutant General of Militia. He immediately devoted his energies to the reorganization of the Militia of Lower Canada. The writer of this sketch has in his collection of manuscripts a "Traité sur la Milice" of 85 pages, 4to, written by this energetic officer in Sept., 1810, dedicated to Sir James Craig, the then Governor General and Commander-in-Chief. It is replete with highly patriotic sentiments well expressed. At the request of Sir George Prevost, then Commander-in-Chief, he compiled and published a volume of 248 pages 12mo, "Règles et Règlements pour la formation, l'exercice et le mouvement de la Milice du Bas Canada," Quebec, 1812. On Vassal's hands fell the command of the embodied Militia during the whole of the campaign 1812-1814. He served chiefly on the frontier south of Montreal and on Sir George Prevost's staff; he was present at the siege of Plattsburg. He remained Adjutant General of Militia 20 years longer. His death occurred in 1843, at the age of 85. Bibaud says he was a small dark man, very vivacious in habit, full of wit and repartee, he excelled at impromptu verse, and was a great social favorite.

THE TWO DUCHESNAY brothers joined early the 1st Battalion R.C.V., and helped in recruiting and organizing it;—they were excellent young officers. The ensign, as before stated, was later transferred to the 5th Battalion 60th or Royal Americans, and with it saw much service in the West Indies and elsewhere. Early in the

century he returned to Canada. We next find him captain, then junior major of DeSalaberry's Regiment, the Voltigeurs Canadiens. At the battle of Chateauguay and in the other engagements, during the war of 1812, in which the Voltigeurs took part, Duchesnay, together with his younger brother Narcisse, won special mention for bravery and meritorious service. The elder brother Antoine Juchereau was at this period Lieutenant-Colonel on the staff. The Duchesnays represented one of the oldest and most loyal of the French Canadian families. They were also wealthy proprietors of the seigneuries of La Beauce, Beauport, Fossambault and Gaudarville. Their first Canadian ancestor came to Canada about the middle of the 17th century ; their original surname was Juchereau de St. Denys.

LIEUTENANT JOSEPH BOUCHETTE was born at Quebec on the 14th of May, 1774, the son of a man who acquired very considerable celebrity during the War of Independence, and who was fortunate enough in personally contributing in a marked way in preserving Canada to the British Crown. It was in November of 1775, Bouchette senior commanded, at the time, a brigantine named the "Gaspé," which was moored in the harbor of Montreal. The American army had just taken Montreal, they were also masters of the St. Lawrence and of the neighboring parishes as far down as Lake St. Peter. The few British troops under General Prescott had surrendered to the invaders. Governor General Sir Guy Carleton was a fugitive, and in momentary danger of falling into the hands of the enemy. Captain Bouchette, brave, determined and full of resource, offered to conduct the Governor safely to Quebec. Carleton assumed the disguise of a canoeman, a light bark canoe was secured, and the pair, accompanied by the Chevalier de Niverville, started on their perilous journey down the river; they managed to pass by, in the dark of night, with muffled paddles, the American vessels which were patrolling the river. After many adventures and hair-breadth escapes, Bouchette and his charge reached Quebec in safety, but barely in time to make hasty preparations to defend the place, revive the courage of the despondent citizens and of the small garrison.

Young Bouchette was first destined for a naval career ; when 14 years of age, he was with his father on a government vessel on Lake Ontario. He showed early talent for drawing ; this led to his being employed in making charts for the use of the Royal Navy on the upper lakes. In the summer of 1796, when only 22, he commanded a small government vessel manned by 30 men, doing patrol duty between Quebec and Montréal. This same

year, however, he accepted a lieutenancy in the 1st Battalion R.C.V. In 1799, he was transferred or seconded to Halifax; he soon after severed his connection with the R.C.V. by exchange into the 7th Fusiliers. We find him Adjutant of his Battalion until the year 1802, when Bouchette finally quitted the army to accept the post of Provincial Deputy Surveyor General. In 1804, he received from the King the commission of Surveyor General, a position which he held until his death in 1841. He filled it with great distinction to himself and advantage to the country. Early in the war of 1812-14 he received the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel on raising a Battalion of Volunteers in the city of Quebec. His intimate knowledge of Upper Canada caused him to be selected to convey despatches to and assist Sir R. Sheaffe in the defence of Upper Canada. He was also charged to make extended reports on the defensive state of the frontier. For this service he received high commendation, and his views on the defenceless state of Yorke, now Toronto, and of the manner in which it could be taken by the enemy, proved but too prophetic.

His further military services during this campaign are sketched as follows in "Morgan's Celebrated Canadians": "In November, 1813, at a very critical juncture, he was ordered to repair to Lachine, whither it had been found expedient to assemble a considerable force, and on the ninth it became the headquarters of the army. He accompanied the Commander in Chief to Coteau du Lac, where he received important reconnoitering instructions. The American Generals Hampton and Wilkinson were, at this period, concerting a juncture of their respective forces, the one marching into the province by the Chateauguay frontier, whilst the other descended the St. Lawrence. Their project was frustrated, and ended in a repulse and precipitate retreat within the limits of their own territory. Colonel Bouchette had, however, previously followed up closely his instructions, and did not return to Lachine until he had ascertained the strength and position of the enemy at the cross-roads, some miles above McMartin's Mills, on the Rivière-aux-Raisins, and, under cover of the night, proceeded in a canoe with two Indians to the mouth of the river, crossed over to the south side of Lake St. Francis, near the Salmon River, to watch the movements of the enemy then in full retreat; being uncertain, however, whether they meant to proceed further down the St. Lawrence, he immediately went down the Beauharnois channel, ascertained the condition and situation of the gunboats, and having put the forces on that line of military com-

munication on their guard, he repaired to headquarters to submit his report."

"On the 17th July, 1814, the Governor in Chief directed that he should proceed to the frontier, towards Lacolle and Odelltown, to sketch the roads leading from thence into the province, and at the same time to reconnoitre the enemy who were stationed at Champlain town. A detachment of forty men of the Voltigeurs Canadiens and thirty Indians accompanied him on this service, which was characterized by General Heriot as having been performed by Colonel Bouchette with much credit to himself and to the admiration of the army."

With this campaign Bouchette's honorable and meritorious military career ended. His labors were turned henceforth to the geography, topography and description of his country. He prepared and had published in London several most accurate maps of the Province, even now consulted. In 1815, his "Topographical Description of the Province of Lower Canada" was printed in London, and dedicated to the Prince Regent at his special request. His master work, however, one which brought him lasting fame and which would have done credit to any European topographer, was his "British Dominions in North America," or a topographical and statistical description of the Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, the Islands of Newfoundland, Prince Edward, and Cape Breton, including considerations on land granting and emigration and a topographical description of Lower Canada, etc., printed in London in 1831, in three large volumes, of 4to size, accompanied by three large maps.

Colonel Bouchette died suddenly in Montreal on the 9th of April, 1841. He was buried in the Notre Dame parish church of Montreal. He left two sons: Joseph succeeded his father as Surveyor General; Robert Shore Milnes, after editing a French newspaper, siding with the Rebels in 1837-38, and being sent in exile to Bermuda (a painful experience for his aged father, who had always been such a devoted servant of the Crown), repented, was pardoned, and subsequently rose to a high position in the Customs of Canada. Both brothers have been dead many years; both left descendants, one of them is Lady Ambrose Shea, wife of the present Governor of the Bahamas.

THE DE LANAUDIÈRES.—Lieut. Charles Gaspard de Lanaudière and his brother Antoine de Lanaudière were the sons of the Seigneur de La Perade, a Legislative councillor, who, in his youth, had been

an officer in the army of Louis XV, and who had seen much fighting before the conquest of Canada and later at the time of the War of Independence. They were also nephews of their colonel the Baron de Longueuil. This family had been ennobled in Canada, it occupied the first rank in the Colony, by its wealth, social connections and services. Lieut. C. de Lanaudière had been sent to complete his education in Europe; he was brilliant and distinguished in manner, and while in London had been one of the set of the Prince of Wales (afterwards George IV.)—certainly not the best of schools for a young man. Like Major Dambourgès of the same regiment he was elected to a seat in the second provincial parliament; he was also aide-de-camp to the Governor General. Ensign Antoine de Lanaudière was of a very different type; he had not had the educational advantages of his elder brother, perhaps he could not have profited of them; on some points he was excessively sensitive: it is said that one day an officer of the 5th Regiment, who was either instructing or inspecting de Lanaudière's subdivision, made some disparaging remarks with regard to de L.'s boots, which were out of date in style if not in condition; this gave him great offence. The outcome of it was that a hostile meeting was arranged to take place on the Levis heights. De Lanaudière and his seconds were punctually on the ground; his opponent failed to appear, but at the cost of his commission. When the R.C.V. were disbanded, both the De Lanaudières retired to their seigniories, at Ste. Anne La Perade and at La Valtrie. I am not sure that they served during the war of 1812.

LIEUT. JOSEPH SAVEUSE DE BEAUJEU—His family issued from one of the most illustrious families in France. His great grandfather came to Canada early in the 18th century; his grandfather was the De Beaujeu who, at the head of 350 French troops and Canadians, assisted by 600 Indians, led by the famous Pontiac, lost his life at the Battle of the Monongahela near Fort Duquesne on the 9th July, 1759, but completely routed General Braddock with his 3,000 newly landed British troops, supported by Virginians under Washington. His father had been a staunch supporter of the British crown in Canada during our conflict with the American rebels from 1775 to 1783. The Lieutenant in after years was called to Legislative Council, and some of his descendants have also occupied seats in our Legislative Halls.

ENSIGN LOUIS DE MONTIZAMBERT was the son of Niverville de Montizambert, an officer in "les troupes de la Marine," who served Louis XV faithfully during the Seven Years War. After the conquest

he went to France with the other French troops who served in Canada. In 1763 he resigned his commission, and returned to his native town of Three Rivers. His grandfather, Pierre Boucher, the first seigneur de Boucherville, had been governor of this place a century before this in 1663. Louis joined the R.C.V. when very young. In 1802—when the corps was disbanded—he was attached as French secretary and translator to the Governor General's civil office. In after years he filled, even cumulated, several important offices. Early in the century he married a Miss Taylor of Quebec. Lieutenant-Col. C. Montizambert, R.C.A., commandant of the Citadel, Quebec, and Dr. F. Montizambert, in charge of the Quarantine station at Grosse Isle below Quebec, are the grandsons of Ensign Louis de Montizambert of the R.C.V.

As to the officers whose names appear on the Regimental staff of the 1st R.C.V., the Chaplain, the Rev. Salter J. Mountain, was, I believe, a nephew of the first Lord Bishop of Quebec, Jacob Mountain; he was chaplain to his Lordship and Rector of the Cathedral of Quebec—a position which he appears to have relinquished about 1820. Louis Fromenteau, jr., quarter master, was the son of an artillery officer who had been employed in building the fortifications of Quebec in 1757, and at Ile Royale in 1761, under the French Régime. At the outbreak of the war of 1812 he joined the 4th Battalion of the incorporated militia as quarter master, and served in that capacity throughout this campaign. Of the Adjutant, Robert Anderson, and the Surgeon, James Anderson, I know nothing. The Surgeon's mate, J. B. L. Ménard, was a native of Quebec, who had graduated from Harvard University in 1791 or 1792. His military career was, however, short, for he died in the spring of 1798, while his Battalion was encamped at Levis, and was buried with full military honors. This young doctor's account book forms part of the collection of MSS. belonging to the writer; it is very curious, and reveals secrets of private life which it would not do to make public even at this late date. Louis Genevay, the Paymaster, was one of those Swiss officers who in civil or military life were prominent in Canada during the War of Independence and the 25 years following the Conquest, such as Cramahé, Haldimand and Masères, etc. He is frequently mentioned in Haldimand's correspondence, chiefly in connection with the army pay department. When the R.C.V. was disbanded in 1802, he was transferred to the Postmaster General's department as deputy.

Benjamin Sulte, in his "*Histoire des Canadiens Français*," vol. VIII, page 34, gives some information concerning Captains de Mon-

tigny, D'Estimaerville and Piedmont, and Ensign de Lamorandière, which may be consulted by those who so desire, but contains nothing which deserves special note in this *mémoire*. Now for a sketch of the 2nd Battalion R.C.V., and of a few of its officers.

THE SECOND BATTALION, R.C.V.

This Battalion spent most of its eight years' existence performing garrison duties in the then wilds of Upper Canada, at Kingston, Fort George on the Niagara River, Fort Erie, Amherstburgh, etc. Colonel Landemann, R.E., in the 2nd volume of his "*Recollections and Adventures*," gives us an interesting account of his acquaintance with the headquarters mess of this Battalion. He reveals to us a curious insight into the usages, customs and etiquette of officers' messes at that period, on frontier duty; after all, they do not appear to differ much from those which would prevail, at the present day, in a modern corps similarly situated.

Landemann was then returning from a period of service at Michilimackinac and Amherstburgh, and had failed to find water transport across Lake Ontario towards Montreal; he tells us: "Having abandoned every expectation of being able to prosecute my journey, I was kindly admitted an honorary member of the mess of the 2nd Battalion of the Royal Canadian Volunteers, commanded by Lieut.-Colonel McDonell, and I passed many pleasant days with the officers of that excellent regiment. In addition to Lieutenant T. Forbes, of the Royal Artillery, who, like myself, was an honorary member, there was an Irish Roman Catholic priest whose name was Burke, and a remarkable good companion he was. Father Burke's anecdotes were not only excellent, but his wit and manner were admirable. He never altered a muscle of his face, although at times when the story was highly laughable, a slight twinkling of his small sunken eyes, and a gentle compression of his lips, predisposed his audience to convulsions, he retaining an air of simplicity passing all description. He accompanied his narrative with strong expressions, yet, as he was averse to swearing, he evaded the sin, as he fancied, by the frequent use of the word *pardé*, an abbreviation of *par Dieu*, or by *par-diman*! with a strong touch of the brogue. By the latter name he was generally known, to which he answered without the slightest sign of being offended.*

*Edmund Burke became first bishop of Nova Scotia on the 4th July, 1817, under the title of Bishop of Sion (*in partibus infidelium*). He was consecrated at Quebec in 1818. Had first come to Quebec in 1787. In 1791 he was Curé of St. Pierre and St. Laurent on the island of Orleans; in 1794 he was missionary at Halifax; in 1795 he was transferred to Rivière aux Raisins in Upper Canada, as vicar general and missionary; in 1797 he was missionary and chaplain to the troops in the Niagara district. He died at Halifax on the 1st December, 1820, aged 67.

" 'It was a year or two ago,' said Father Burke, on one occasion, 'that the Bishop of Quebec (John Jacob Mountain) and his family visited Niagara, and when about to sail for Kingston in one of the government vessels appointed to convey the distinguished party, the celebrated Joseph Brant, an Indian, and chief of the Six Nations, also proposed to take passage in the same vessel. Captain Brant, for he actually was a real captain on the half pay unattached list (a reward he had received for his services during the first American war), was a very well educated man, had been in England, was a freemason, wrote and spoke the English language remarkably well, was shrewd, clever, and had been received in the best society in London. At this time Brant was on his way to Lower Canada to attend to some Indian affairs as Chief of the Six Nations, and was attended by sixteen of his handsomest and cleverest Indians, who, although somewhat civilized in many points, were all of them, including Brant, in their native costume, that is *sans culottes*. The Bishop very naturally felt much objection to the close society of so many half-clothed men with the ladies of his family, and consequently took an opportunity of giving Brant a hint of the propriety of their wearing trousers.

" 'My Lord,' said Brant, "I think with you it will, no doubt, be much more agreeable;" then with an arch look added, "send me sixteen pairs of trousers, my lord, and I shall take care that my rascals wear them." Sixteen pairs of trousers, his lordship began to consider, would cost no trifle, and this expense was merely to enable his wife and daughters to appear on deck for one or two days at most. "No, no," thought his lordship; "we must wave the ceremony of the trousers."

" 'Whilst mentioning this very extraordinary Indian, I may as well take the opportunity to relate, that during the time I was at Fort George, still in the year 1798, Brant dined several times at the mess of the Royal Canadian Volunteers. I found him gentlemanly and well acquainted with all the etiquette of the table; he was never troublesome, ly intruding any Indian vulgarities while sober, yet he occasionally indulged in a few glasses more than he could bear, which rendered him excitable. I have seen him with very little cause jump up and flourish his tomahawk over any person's head whom he considered had offended him, declaring, as he screeched out his war whoop, that he would instantly scalp him. I never heard, however, that he had gone beyond a threat, and I firmly believe that he had no desire but to cause alarm, and in that, I have reason to think, he never failed.

" "Drinking to the health of the king was the first toast after the cloth was removed, when Brant filled a bumper, and rising, drank "to the health of George III, God bless him!" but the moment the health of the Prince of Wales was proposed, Brant turned down his glass, and, evidently much enraged, would exclaim: "I love George III from the bottom of my heart," then frowning, and assuming an expression of supreme contempt he added emphatically, "d—n the Prince of Wales." I never learned the cause of his dislike to the Prince."

Referring to the Commanding Officer of the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Volunteers, Landemann says elsewhere that Lieut.-Col. McDonell was a small man, and almost constantly suffering from gout. With regard to his antecedents before joining the Royal Canadian Volunteers and his subsequent career, all I can say is that he was from the Glengarry settlement in Upper Canada, together with most of his brother officers and men, and that I have failed, with very few exceptions, to identify any of them from among their innumerable namesakes from the same locality. There was, however, in 1804, a "John McDonell, Esq.," who was appointed "County Lieutenant of Glengarry,"—was this the late commanding officer of the Royal Canadian Volunteers who suffered so constantly from gout? Major Hazelton Spencer was appointed to a similar function in the County of Lennox. On the 7th October, 1815, Neil McLean, Esq., of Cornwall, was appointed by the King, Legislative Councillor of the Province of Upper Canada,—is he the individual who had been captain in the 2nd Royal Canadian Volunteers?

Landemann, in his "Recollections", Vol. II, pages 12-13, states that Captain McLean of the R.C.V. (was it Hector or Neil?) was commandant at Amherstburgh in 1798; "he was fond of exercising his power, had a peculiar stiffness of manner with dashes of familiarity, making a most disagreeable mixture possible which I thought uncommonly an annoying." He was on bad terms with most of the other officers in the garrison. Another officer of the R.C.V. stationed here at this time was Captain Alexander MacMillan, "a jolly, fat Scotchman, with a very plump, round face, sandy hair and rosy complexion. In the course of the evening (after dinner at McLean's) he treated us to the tune on two Jews harps, performing on both at once, and, as he asserted, playing first and second. His Jews harps were great pets, and he kept them in a neat case made for the purpose, well supplied with cotton to protect them from injury."

It is much easier to trace the careers and identify the few officers of this Battalion who bore French names. Lieutenant Taschereau belonged to the ancient and very distinguished family of that name, which has at all times and for generations supplied the church, the law, the judiciary and the militia with men of high merit. Lieutenant Pierre Ignace Mailhot came from the district of Three Rivers, where the family is still largely and honorably represented. We find Lieutenants Taschereau and Mailhot appointed lieutenant-colonels, and commanding respectively the 1st and 2nd Battalions of the incorporated militia which had been raised in the French Canadian districts for service during the war of 1812-14.

Ensign Pierre de Boucherville deserves more than a passing remark. He was descended of Pierre Boucher, Sieur de Grosbois, who in 1663 was Governor of Three Rivers, subsequently founder and first Seigneur of Boucherville; he was born at Boucherville on the 23rd October, 1780, son of René Antoine de Boucherville and Madeleine Raimbault de St. Blain. He was therefore but fifteen when gazetted to the Royal Canadian Volunteers. On the 9th January, 1798, Colonel Landemann, R.E., whom I have already quoted, was about to leave Fort George, Niagara, for Lower Canada, *via* the overland route to the head waters of the Mohawk River, then down its valley to Albany, then North towards Canada by the Lake Champlain route. "I was fortunate," says Landemann, "to secure as fellow-traveller, Ensign de Boucherville of the 2nd Battalion Royal Canadian Volunteers, a very fine young man, about eighteen years of age, full of loyalty and military ardor. He was the son of one of the seigneurs of Lower Canada." Later, on the 17th January, during their journey east, Landemann tells the following story of young de Boucherville: They had reached White's town, "a small but very neatly built place, with a new church somewhat out of proportion. The hotel was very good, having a respectable coffee-room, well attended by news hunters. After dinner, our loyal friend Ensign de Boucherville suddenly recollected that this day was the anniversary of the Queen's (Charlotte) birthday, when, unable to restrain a public demonstration of his attachment and loyalty, he started up on his feet, and exclaimed with a Frenchman's accent: "By G— dis is de Queen's *burst* day; we must drink Her Majesty's health!" and then raising his voice and looking fiercely round the room, he added: "And everybody in de room shall drink de Queen's health, by G—! or he shall have to do wit me."

There were at this time about twenty Americans in the room,

when they, one and all, rose, and each, drawing his chair behind him, clapped himself down at our table, declaring they had a great regard for old Charlotte and for old Georgy too, and would most willingly drink to their healths. This being accomplished by emptying two or three bottles in addition to those that had been on the table at first, one of these good-natured fellows said: "Now, gentlemen, you will, I hope, not refuse to drink to the health of our worthy president." This was of course done in overflowing bumpers; and then a dozen of the greatest men of both countries were in like manner toasted, always in bumpers. After which, our excellent friends, giving us a very hearty shake of the hand, expressed their desire that we should revisit them, and wished us a good night, repeating several times that they would always be glad to drink to the health of old Georgy and his wife. As they waved their hands in putting on their hats, I could see many of them chuckling and winking at each other, in silent enjoyment at leaving us to pay for our loyalty; for these very obliging, good-natured citizens had consumed with us thirty-seven bottles of wine!

Young de Boucherville remained in the R.C.V. until it was disbanded. In 1812 he married a Miss Sabrevois de Bleury; he had just been appointed provincial aide-de-camp to Sir George Prevost, and served in that capacity until the close of the war. He was for many years one of the most active members of the Legislative Council; he died in November, 1857, leaving two sons, the eldest, the Honorable Senator De Boucherville, twice Premier of the Province of Quebec, is still living. The second died about a year ago near Quebec, a retired public servant; in his earlier days he had produced works of fiction, which are still highly esteemed.

The historical sketch of the Royal Canadian Volunteers is now as complete as I can make it out of the records and materials at present within my reach. A considerable number of documents and some correspondence relating to this long forgotten yet interesting old corps are preserved in the Archives Department at Ottawa. They are at all times accessible to any who would wish to know more about the Royal Canadian Volunteer Regiment of 1794-1802.